

A CHRISTMAS BUDGET.

As we don't receive many contributions on this subject it must be because our homemakers have nothing to offer, so, this time, our corner shall be mainly given to this subject.

The following hints are collected from various sources, and some one ought to be just suited to everyone's purse, time, and inclination.

The Floral Cabinet, for November, gives many hints for Xmas-time, among them the following:

CASE FOR EYE GLASSES.

Cut a piece of plush something like the shape of an envelope, only about half as wide, embroder it liked, and line with plush and an interlining of crinoline, finish the edge with a silk cord. Close the ends in front and fasten, put a bow of ribbon on top with a safety pin sewed on the back of it to fasten to the dress.

TIE TO RUB GLASSES.

Cut two pieces plush or velvet and two of chambray skin the shape of an eye-glass, but larger. Embroder the plush pieces, back the chambray and button-hole stitch them together, then tie the pieces together with a narrow ribbon.

WORK BASKET.

Work baskets, napkin rings, etc., can be crocheted in any pattern, either from knitting cotton, macramé cord or fish twine. When finished rub well in stiff buffed braid and stretch over any box or dish of the right shape and tie in place until dry. Then give two or three coats of shellac drying between and lastly a coat of varnish.

Articles may be lined or not according to the fancy. For a work basket or box make a needle book and pin cushion like the lining.

ORNAMENTAL BROOMS AND BRUSHES.

Whisk brooms and brushes can be ornamented by covering the handle and as far as the cord of the broom with plush, velvet, or cashmere. Finish with a cord and tassels to hang, or make a cardboard just large enough to allow the broom placed handle down to slip through the place left open at the bottom.

We have seen broom handles covered and dressed like a doll, the features worked and a cap on the head.

SLIPPERS.

Toilet slippers are always useful to a lady, and so make a serviceable Christmas present.

Germanstown wool or worsted may be used; the light colors are more fanciful, but still suitable. For real service cardinal or gray is best.

Beginning at the toe, make a chain of 15 stitches; go back with single crochet, widening in the middle. Continue back and forth, widen in the middle stitch for 15 rows, and go on with only 15 stitches for the piece to go around the heel. When long enough, fasten to the other side of the front. Put a shell border on the top, making loops for an elastic. Sew the top to soles, which can be bought already bound with bridle. Run in a ribbon over the elastic and finish with a bow on the toe.

A TRAP-OT STAND.

This is a useful present, and for those who cannot afford one of the tiles used for this, purpose the following is a substitute.

Cut two circles of red flannel the size of a tea plate, put a sheet of wadding between and sew the edges together, overhand and work a loose button-hole stitch all around to make a foundation to crochet a shell upon.

Then sew both sides of the mat full of old buttons, set on as thick as they can be. The best work goes through the buttons enough to hurt any table—Our Country Home.

Every housekeeper has a store of old buttons, and this is a good way to utilize them. Sort over the stock and arrange with some regularity; in this way all sorts and sizes will look as well as if all were alike.

ORNAMENTAL CLOCK.

A common cigar box, says the *American Artisan*, may aid in the ornamentation of an ordinary clock. Cut a hole in the bottom of the box, large enough to admit the face of the clock, cover the box neatly with plush, cut the opening in the plush as much smaller than the one in the box, slash it around, and draw it through, and give it to the inside of the box. The lid should be covered separately and fastened on the box with small hinges, or by means of pieces of muslin glued on the inside to serve as hinges. Fasten the clock securely in the box. A vine may be embroidered or painted on the plush before the box is covered. If liked, cover a small shelf for the clock with the same material and finish with fringe.

FOR MANY USES.

A bag which will serve as a slipper pocket or a receptacle for solid handkerchiefs and collars, or even for a case in which to keep knitting or fancy work, is easily made, and is pretty enough to hang in the sitting room by the side of the sewing machine. It is one of those conveniences so dear to the feminine heart, and which serves alike for use and ornament.

The materials are blue and white striped ticking and pink silks—get a good quality and pretty stripe in the ticking, and the pink shade that will go prettily with the blue. Have the piece of ticking thirty inches long, twenty-three wide; make a shirt-pocket of the silks and put across the bottom; this must extend half way up the ticking; put on a bow at the top of the pocket; above this shirring and extending across the ticking, put another strip of ticking, which is to be divided into three pockets by rows of machine stitching. Work the stripes in the pocket in a feather stitch, using pink crows for the blue stripes, and blue crewel for the white stripes.

This makes a very useful and pretty gift and it may be hung in the sitting room or sleeping room.—*Ms. State Press.*

GLUE PAINT FOR FLOORS.

A cheap and durable paint for floors, which will dry so rapidly as to give very little inconvenience in putting on, is made this way:

To three pounds of spruce yellow add one pound or two pounds if desired of dry white lead, and mix well together. Dissolve two ounces of glue in one quart of water, stirring often until smooth and near boiling.

For large floors, double or triple these proportions will be desirable.

Thicken the glue water after the manner of mush, until it will spread smoothly on the floor. Use a common paint brush of a hot. This will fill all the crevices of a rough floor, and as are often found in kitchens. It will dry soon, and when dry apply boiled linseed oil with a clean brush. In a few hours it will be found dry enough to use by laying papers or mats to step on for a few days.—A. W., in *New York Tribune*.

The Oxford Democrat.

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MY WORDS WILL LAST.

For the Democrat.
My words, sweet one, will last I say to thee,
Each word will find its own congenial place,
And burst its garden-gate a flower of grace,
Enriching summer seasons yet to be;
Ah, yes, a word of love I trust can see,
Can thus full pain its growth with gladness trace,
And see it run its sweet appointed race,
And live in thee because it came from me!
My heart has faith that what I do is best,
Untroubled as thou or winter's chilling frost,
Forever safe from blight of earthly storm;
So safe, so sure to memory, easily borne,
Each word of mine shall grow to fruit and flower!
W. B.

THE ISLE OF CONTENT.

By S. CONANT POSTER.
There's a land 's a little way from us all,
Where each dweller may follow his bent,
It is under no monarch's tyrannical thrall,
And is known as the Isle of Content.
It's a wonderful spot: if you ask, it will bring
To you quickly what'er you desire,
What is not, not profuse—'tis a singular thing—
That is just what you never require.
By the balmy breeze of Happiness fanned,
It is neither too cold nor too hot,
And the leaves and buds never are in the land,
Whether school is in session or not.

In Content, too, but not, yet you feel, never
You are equal in wealth to a king,
While a tear in the trousers or darn in the dress
You consider a capital thing.
If you haven't the money to purchase a meal
It is under no monarch's tyrannical thrall,
Take a rest in your seat and you'll instantly
Feel.
If you live in Content "very nice."
When I notice a lad with a bright sunny smile
That extends for three inches, or more,
Then I myself instantly, thinking, the
"He's encompassed on Content's happy shore."
I have dwelt on this beautiful island at times,
While idling away my leisure for you,
And I often have wondered if, reading my
rhymes,
You were there as a resident, too.
—St. Nicholas for November.

A LUCKY ACCIDENT.

"I say, Charlie, you've done for yourself this time!" said pretty Doris Thornton to her admirer, Charlie Ringwood of the Chalkshire regiment, as they were sitting together after dinner in the conservatory attached to the pleasant riverside villa belonging to Doris's father, Mr. Thomas Thornton of the stock exchange.

"Why—how, Doris?" asked the young man.

"By speaking as you did at dinner against steam launches, and saying that the men who owned them and used them were cads," replied Doris. "Papa's just bought one, and, next to fishing, has made it his great hobby."

"By Jove! that's unlucky," said Charlie. "Now what's to be done?" It is no use my going and telling him that I was only chaffing, because I spoke so straight."

"I don't know, I'm sure," said Doris, seriously. "You could hardly have made a more unfortunate mistake, for papa considers the real cads to be those who growl because others like to move fast without any trouble to themselves."

"On a crowded river, washing away banks and kicking up no end of dirt and noise," continued the young officer. "Well, I'm awfully sorry, Doris, for the old boy's rather touchy, and it might injure his ideas with regard to you and me, eh?"

When the young people had returned to the drawing room it was very evident that the "old boy" was disturbed. In vain Charlie sang his best songs; in vain he tried to inveigle the angry old gentleman into pleasant conversation; in vain he exerted every effort to show himself up to the best possible advantage. The blow had been dealt, and it rankled beneath the capacious waistcoat of the wealthy old stock broker.

He answered his guest in curt monosyllables; he made such rustling with the newspaper, and coughed inordinately during the performance of Charlie's songs, and finally, when it was time for the young man to return towards, instead of offering him one of his famous Antonio Carunchos, shaking his head heartily, and expressing a hope to see him again soon, the old gentleman assumed a severe air and said:

"Ahem—Mr. Ringwood, of course, a gentleman of your refined tastes could never—ahem—think of marrying the daughter of a cad who keeps a steam launch! Ahem—good night sir."

Charlie was staggered, and looked pleadingly at Doris, who, however, only shook her head slowly and significantly. There were probably few more unhappy young men that night within the metropolitan radius than Charlie Ringwood as he turned slowly homeward and pondered that, in the terse language of Doris, he had done for himself.

The next morning brought him, instead of hope, a letter from his sweet heart, which made him absolutely miserable. It was as follows:

"MY DEAREST CHARLIE: I have scratched a moment to write these few lines. Papa was in an awful rage last night after you had gone; called you an insolent puppy and all sorts of things, which I should not have minded had he not wound up by forbidding me to hold any further communication with you, and saying that a man who would be ashamed of his father-in-law because he kept a steam launch was not fit to be a son-in-law. What are we to do? Ever your affectionate,
DORIS THORNTON."

"Aye!" muttered Charlie, when he had read the letter over for the twentieth time. "What are we to do? It's of no use arguing with this sort of old fellow; once he gets a notion into his head, no power on earth can drive out. I wish to goodness I'd never said a word about steam launches."

In the evening he went to his club, where he met with an old school fellow, Jack Raggles. Now, Jack Raggles, al-

though continually in difficulty himself, was famous for his ingenuity in getting other men out of their troubles. More than once Charlie had been obliged to have recourse to him for advice, and he had never regretted it. This was a far more serious case than any preceding one, but Charlie was simply desperate, and would have clung to the maddest device suggested, as a drowning man clutches at a straw. So he got Jack Raggles into a quiet corner, and there, over a sherry-and-bitters, he laid the facts of the case before him.

"Well," said Jack, when Charlie had concluded, "it certainly is an awkward case, and it would be deuced hard lines for you to have to chuck up all thoughts of marrying a nice and pretty girl like Miss Thornton for such a trifle. But I've got fellows out of far worse holes before now, and I dare say I shan't fail this time."

"You are a good fellow, Jack, upon my word you are," said Charlie, enthusiastically; "but, by Jove, if you get me out of this you'll be a genius."

Jack was silent for a few moments and puffed vigorously at his cigar. At length he said:

"I say, Charlie, isn't the old man a regular maniac for fishing?"

"Rather!" replied Charlie. "He takes a holiday about three times a week on purpose to fish. He starts off after breakfast with a big hammer and a jar of beer, and sits in a punt until evening. Still, now he's got this wretched steam launch I expect he'll off with the old wife and on with the new. But what has fishing to do with the subject in hand?"

"Never you mind just now," answered his friend, "but you will find out from Miss Thornton when her father next intends to go out in his punt, and where he is likely to be, and then send me a telegram to Chalkshire Street, and I'll tell you to do so."

Charlie had such implicit faith in Jack Raggles's ingenuity that he went home that evening in a comparatively happy frame of mind. He wrote to Doris the first thing the next morning, and in the evening got a reply to the effect that Mr. Thornton was already making preparations for a long day's fishing upon the Wednesday following. He telegraphed immediately to Jack Raggles, and received the following reply:

"Keep close to him, but out of sight, at about 6 o'clock in the evening."

Charlie wondered what on earth his friend's scheme could be, but resolved to obey instructions. He knew very well that Mr. Thornton's happy hunting ground was a secluded back water, famous for tench and perch, a couple of hundred yards above the lawn of his house. Thither he repaired, stealthily, like a man bent on an evil errand, at about five o'clock, and took up a position upon a rough riverside path, well-nigh hidden from sight by bushes and foliage, whence he could observe the enthusiastic old fisherman without being seen himself.

The old gentleman was sitting like a wax figure in his punt, with a large cigar in his mouth and rod in hand, when Charlie arrived. So completely absorbed was Mr. Thornton in his sport, that a regiment might have defiled behind him without attracting his notice. Charlie watched him until a distant church clock chimed the quarter to six.

He then saw the old gentleman take out his watch, look at it attentively, and after a few moments' hesitation, slowly and reluctantly begin to pack up his rod and line and put his paraphernalia together.

Charlie began to get anxious. Whatever plan Jack Raggles concocted would have to be carried into execution quickly, or it would be too late.

At last Mr. Thornton had arranged his tackle and united the punt-poles, and was pushing off into mid stream.

Charlie's heart sank, but he crept swiftly forward to a little promontory to watch the old gentleman faithfully, according to instructions, until six o'clock.

Mr. Thornton, being old and obese, pushed slowly and with difficulty, and as the clock struck six he had not yet got out of shallow water. So intent was Charlie, however, in looking at him, that he did not perceive the dark outline of a steam launch coming directly down upon the punt, and he was only made aware of the fact by seeing the old gentleman wave one arm vigorously and by hearing him shout lustily at the same time that he endeavored to get his unwieldy punt back out of the way. But it was too late, the bow of the launch went gently against the punt, though with sufficient force to tilt it up, with which movement the poor old stock broker was sent floundering into the water, yelling madly as he went.

Quick as thought Charlie dashed in. The water was fortunately barely up to his waist, so he seized Mr. Thornton under the arms, and after much splashing and shouting and fave, got him first into the punt and then on the steam-launch.

The first person Charlie saw on board was Jack Raggles, who, behind the rescued stock broker's back, was impressing silence and non-recognition by energetic gestures.

Directly Mr. Thornton felt himself on his feet, he burst into a violent passion, which was in no way appeased by the approach of Jack Raggles, whom he did not know, with the most admirable expression of contrition in his face, and the words, "I'm sure I'm awfully sorry sir," on his lips.

"Sorry, sir!" roared the old gentleman, "so you ought to be sir! I consider it positively iniquitous and abominable that a man can't go out for a day's fish-

ing, without being run into by a lot of cockneys, who have no more idea of handling a steam launch than they have of handling a balloon! and I shall take the very earliest opportunity, sir, of laying the matter before the authorities, in order that such unwarrantable interference with the liberty of the subject may be immediately put a stop to. It is abominable sir, abominable!"

"Can I put you ashore anywhere?" asked Jack, deferentially.

"Yes, sir, you can, as soon as possible, and before I catch my death of cold," replied the old gentleman. "You see those steps ahead, sir?"

"I do," replied Jack.

"Well, then, if you can see those steps how the devil was it that you couldn't see them, steer to them—that is, if you know how to. They belong to me, sir, to Thomas Thornton, esq."

"As yet, the irritated stock broker had given no thought to his rescuer, but as they were floating gently down the stream toward the steps, he turned and said:

"And to whom am I indebted for my rescue from a watery grave?"

Charlie stepped quietly forward and bowed. The old gentleman started back and exclaimed:

"Good gracious! Mr. Ringwood! Sir, allow me to shake your hand most heartily. You have performed an action to-night which shall not pass without recognition. You are a noble fellow sir—a noble fellow!"

"I did nothing, Mr. Thornton, but what any other man would have done under the circumstances," said Charlie, feeling himself to be a dreadful hypocrite in assuming the deprecatory air of a hero; "but now that we are here together I should like to express my extreme regret that I should have given you offence the other night by expressing my opinion about steam launches. A little more candidly than perhaps I should have done, but, believe me—"

Mr. Thornton interrupted him—"Believe me, sir, you did not say enough. I am a complete novice to the opinions you hold. Steam launches are an abomination, sir, and mine is for sale from this very moment."—*London Truth.*

A THANKSGIVING DINNER THAT FLEW AWAY.

"Aunt, what makes you keep that gander, year after year?" said I, one evening, as we were sitting on the lawn before the door. "Is it because he is a kind of watchdog, and keeps troublesome people away?"

"No, child, no; I do not wish to keep most people away, not well-behaved people, nor to distress nor annoy any one. The fact is, there is a story about that gander that I do not like to speak of to every one—something that makes me feel tender toward him; so that if he needs a whipping, I would rather do it. He knows something that no one else knows. You have heard me speak of Nathaniel, my oldest boy?"

"Yes."

"That is his picture in my room, you know. I loved Nathaniel—you cannot think how much I loved Nathaniel. It was on my account that he went away."

"The farm did not produce enough for us all. One year—that was ten years ago—we were sued for our taxes."

"Nathaniel," said I, "I will take boards."

"Then he looked up to me and said (Oh, how noble and handsome he appeared to me): 'I wish he could talk, poor bird! I wish he could talk. I shall never sell him, nor kill him, nor have him abused. He knows!'—*Hezekiah Butterworth, in November St. Nicholas.*

"That gander knows something he could tell me if he could talk. Birds have memories. He remembered the corn-crib—he remembered something else. I wish he could talk, poor bird! I wish he could talk. I shall never sell him, nor kill him, nor have him abused. He knows!"—*Hezekiah Butterworth, in November St. Nicholas.*

"Years have passed—ten. You know I have waited and waited for my boy to come back. December grew dark with its rainy seas; the snows fell; May lighted up the hills, but the vessel never came back. Nathaniel—my Nathaniel—never returned."

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"Mother, I will go to sea."

"Where? asked I, in surprise."

"In a coaster."

"You and John can manage the place," he continued. "One of the vessels sails next week—Uncle Aaron's, he offers to take me."

"It seemed best, and he made preparations to go."

"The spring before, Skipper Ben—you have met Skipper Ben—had given me some goose eggs; he had brought them from Canada, and said that they were wild-geese eggs."

"I set them under hens. In four weeks I had three goslings, and one of those goslings is that gander."

"Skipper Ben came over to see me, the day before Nathaniel was to sail. Aaron came with him."

"I said to Aaron:

"What can I give to Nathaniel to carry to sea with him to make him think of home? Cake, preserves, apples? I haven't got much; I have done all I can for him, poor boy."

"Brother looked at me curiously, and said:

"Give him one of those wild geese, and we will fatten it on shipboard and will have it for our Thanksgiving dinner."

"What brother Aaron said pleased me. The young gander was a noble bird, the handsomest of the lot; and I resolved to keep the geese to kill for my own use and give him to Nathaniel."

"The next morning—it was late in September—I took leave of Nathaniel. I tried to be calm and hopeful. I watched him as he went down the walk with the gander struggling under his arms. A stranger would have laughed, but I did not feel like laughing; although the boys who went coasting were usually gone but a few months and came home hardy and happy."

"I saw him go over the hill. On the top he stopped and held up the gander. He disappeared; yes, my own Nathaniel disappeared. I think of him now as one who disappeared."

"November came—it was a terrible

month on the coast that year. Storm followed storm; the sea-faring people talked constantly of wrecks and losses. I could not sleep on the nights of those high winds. I used to lie awake thinking over all the happy hours I had lived with Nathaniel.

"Thanksgiving week came. 'It was full of Indian-summer brightness after the long storms. The nights were frosty, bright and calm. 'I could sleep those calm nights. 'One morning I thought I heard a strange sound in the woodland pasture. It was like a wild goose. I listened; it was repeated. I was lying in bed. I started up—I thought I had been dreaming."

On the night before Thanksgiving I went to bed early, being very tired. The moon was full; the air was calm and still. I was thinking of Nathaniel, and I wondered if he would indeed have the gander for his Thanksgiving dinner; if it would be cooked as well as I would have cooked it, and if he would think of me that day."

I was just going to sleep when suddenly I heard a sound that made me start up and hold my breath. 'Honk! 'I thought it was a dream followed by a nervous shock. 'Honk! Honk! 'There it was again, in the yard. I was surely awake and in my senses. 'I heard the goose cackle. 'Honk! Honk! Honk! 'I got out of bed and lifted the curtain. It was almost as light as day. Instead of two geese there were three. Had one of my neighbor's geese stolen away? 'I should have thought so, and for the reason that none of the neighbors' geese had that peculiar call—that hornlike tone that I had noticed in mine. 'I went out of the door. 'The third goose looked like the very gander I had given Nathaniel. Could it be he?

"I did not sleep. I rose early and went to the crib for some corn. 'It was a gander—a 'wild' gander—that had come in the night. He seemed to know me. 'I trembled all over as though I had seen a ghost. I was so faint that I sat down on the meal-chest. 'As I was in that place a bill pecked against the door. The door opened. The strange gander came hobbling over the crumpled and went to the corn-bin. He stopped there, looked at me, and gave a sort of glad "honk," as though he knew me and was glad to see me. 'I was certain that he was the gander I had raised, and that Nathaniel had lifted into the air when he gave me his last recognition from the top of the hill. 'It overcame me. It was Thanksgiving. The church bell would soon be ringing as on Sunday. And here was Nathaniel's Thanksgiving dinner; and brother Aaron's—had it flown away? Where was the vessel?

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SOME OF OUR PRESIDENTS.

Editor Oxford Democrat:

I will give you a few of my recollections of some of our Presidents, from Andrew Jackson down to the present time.

Andrew Jackson made war upon our financial affairs by destroying our National Bank and removing the deposits and placing them in his local pet banks. It caused a great depression in the business affairs of our country; so much so that in 1836-7 business came almost to a standstill.

In 1837 Martin VanBuren succeeded Jackson, and he followed in the footsteps of his illustrious predecessor.

In 1841 Wm. H. Harrison succeeded VanBuren, and he was in office only one month before he fell a victim to the wiles of his enemies.

John Tyler, the tailor, succeeded him. In 1845, James K. Polk succeeded John Tyler, and in 1849, Zachary Taylor succeeded Polk, and he only continued in office one year, one month and ten days before he fell a victim to the wiles of his enemies. Millard Fillmore succeeded him.

Now I just as much believe that Harrison and Taylor were dragged to death, as I believe that Lincoln and Garfield died by the assassin's pistol. At the time of Harrison's election, I heard a prominent Democrat say that he would never be allowed to take his seat, and after Harrison's death I heard the same man say that Harrison was a hard old warrior and a hard old Whig, but he could not withstand the solid argument of the Democrats. The great query in my mind at the time was, what those solid arguments were. At last I came to the conclusion that they were some kind of a drug that was put in his food or drink, that caused his death. On the election of Taylor in 1849, I heard a number of prominent Democrats say that he would never be allowed to take his seat, and that if he was, he would not serve his time out, for God would remove him in the same way He did Harrison. And that led me to believe that he would

